

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **2 May 2006**, the examiner reviewed claims 1-11, 13-17 and 19-28. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-17, and 19-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bly et al. (U.S. Pub 2002/0077944, hereinafter "Bly."), in view of Guerindon et al. (USPN 5,193,065 hereinafter "Guerindon"), and further in view of Harris (US Pub. No. 2002/0059204 hereinafter "Harris").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 14, and 23 were rejected as being unpatentable over Bly in view of Guerindon. Independent claims 15, and 22 were rejected as being unpatentable over Bly in view of Guerindon and further in view of Harris.

Applicant agrees with the examiner that Guerindon teaches searching for material in local as well as remote storage, but respectfully points out that Guerindon does not disclose combining the results of the search while presenting them to the user. In contrast, the present invention teaches merging the results of the remote search with the results of the local search in such a manner that **the combined results may be presented to the user employing a single interface** (see page 3, lines 10-13, page 13, lines 13, and FIG. 2, boxes 218 and 220 of the instant application). This is advantageous because it **offers transparency** to the user about the actual local and remote searches that are conducted by the system in response to the user request. Otherwise external searches may yield results that are presented to the user in unfamiliar interfaces, requiring the user to spend time and effort in becoming familiar with these varying external interfaces (see page 2, lines 11-15 of the instant application).

There is nothing in Bly, Guerindon, or Harris, separately or in concert that teaches combining the results of the external and local searches and presenting them to the user in a single interface.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14 to clarify that the present invention teaches merging the results and presenting them to the user through a single interface. These amendments find support on page 2, lines 11-15, page 3, lines 10-13, page 13, line 13, and FIG. 2, boxes 218 and 220 of the instant application. Dependent claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice. Dependent claim 6 has been amended to correct antecedent basis. No new matter has been added.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14-15, and 22-23 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-6, 9-11, 13 and 26, which depend upon claim 1, claims 16-21, and 27 which depend upon claim 15, and claims 24-25, and 28 which depend upon claim 23, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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